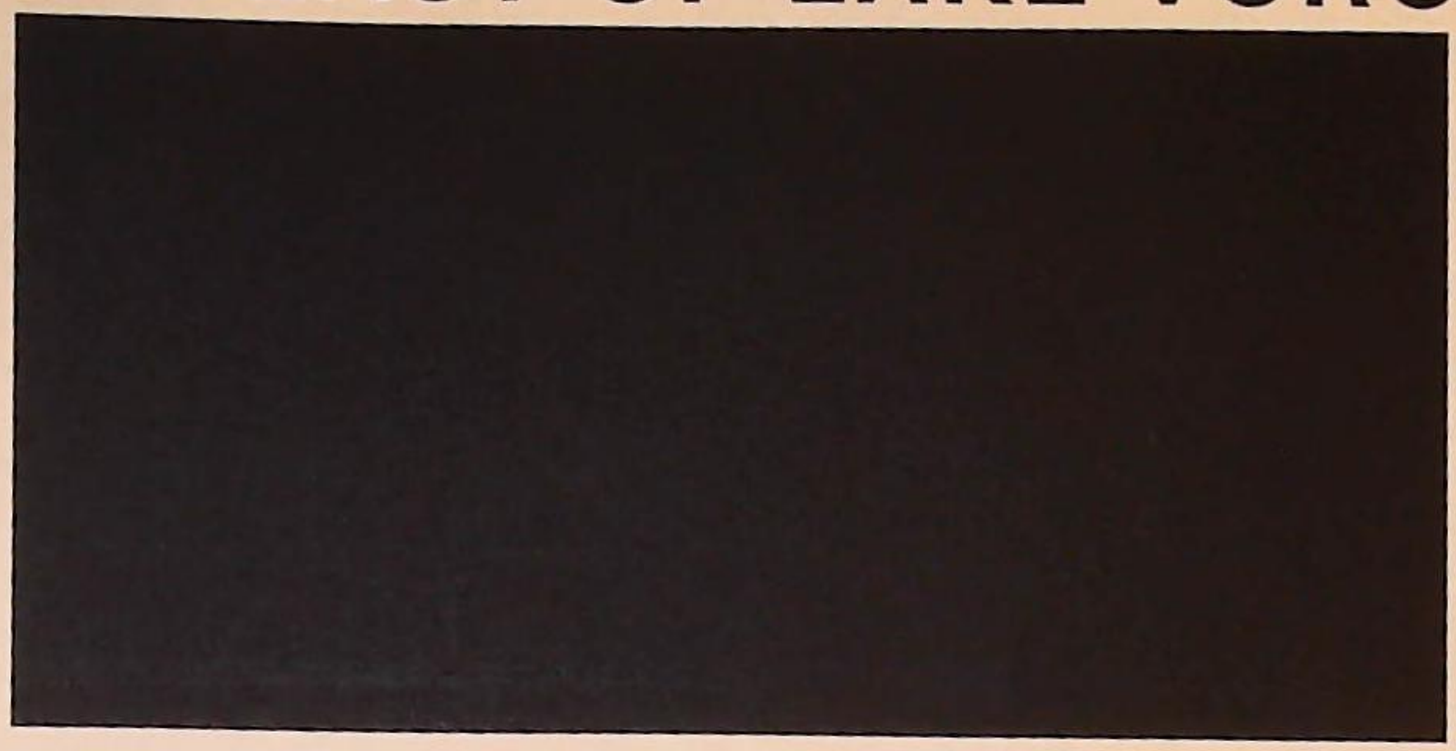
Russia:

THE BEAST OF LAKE VOROTA



The following text is a translation and adaption from a story by the englishman Gordon W. Creighton, who in turn took it from an article b Dr. S.K. Klumov, who had it published in the scientific magazine Prior (Nature) in August 1962:

In eastern Siberia there is high mountains and largerly unpopulated areas. The climate is extremely cold. I´m foremost referring tc the Sordongnokh tablelands on the Oimyakon plains, not far from the cold Verkhoyansk. No zoologist or botanist have ever visited this inhospitable area.

During the Tertiary period this vast region was relatively low situat according to geologists, and sloped gradually eastwards. The mountai that was created at the same time, cut off the low area from Lake Okhotsk and raised it with some thousand meters. On this relatively new plateau, a few smaller rivers were dammed up by collapsing rock and created a system of linked lakes".In July 1953 the russian geolo V.A. Tverdokhlebov came there with a group of prospectors, engaged i geological investigations of the Sordongnokh tablelands.

A sunny summer´s day they visited Lake Vorota. There was no wind and the surface was like a mirror. Suddenly Tverdokhleboy and h young collegue, Boris Bashkatov, saw a object in the water about 300 meters from the shore, reflected by the sun. First they thought it wa an empty oil-barrel, but then they discovered it was alive!.

It swam at high speed towards the shore, right for the place were the witnesses were standing. The geologists quickly climbed the rocks,